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82D CONGRESS, 1st Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 607

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BURLINGTON, IOWA, TO OWN, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE A TOLL BRIDGE ACROSS THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AT OR NEAR SAID CITY

AUGUST 2 (legislative day, AUGUST 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MCCLELLAN, from the Committee on Public Works, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4332]

The Committee on Public Works, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4332) to authorize the city of Burlington, Iowa, to own, maintain, and operate a toll bridge across the Mississippi River at or near said city, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The bridge was constructed in 1917 under authority of an act approved December 17, 1915, which granted the consent of Congress to the Citizens' Bridge Co. and its successors and assigns to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Mississippi River at or near Burlington. In 1923 the bridge was acquired and has since been maintained and operated as a toll bridge by the city of Burlington.

The committee has been informed that the bridge is now in immediate need of repair and improvement and the enactment of H. R. 4332 is urgent to enable city officials to proceed with the sale of bonds to raise the necessary funds for such repairs. The repair and improvement has been delayed pending clarification of the city's authority to own, maintain, and operate the bridge properties.

The Secretary of the Army has advised that the enactment of this bill would remove the present obstacle to the sale of bonds and will not involve the expenditure of funds by that Department.

The report of the Secretary of the Army to the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., July 3, 1951.

Hon. CHARLES A. BUCKLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Public Works,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. BUCKLEY: Reference is made to your recent request for the views of this Department with respect to H. R. 4332, Eighty-second Congress, first session, a bill "to authorize the city of Burlington, Iowa, to own, maintain, and operate a toll bridge across the Mississippi River at or near said city." The Secretary of Defense has delegated to the Department of the Army the responsibility for expressing the views of the Department of Defense.

Insofar as the interests of this Department are concerned, no objection is perceived to the enactment of the above-mentioned legislation.

The bill would authorize the city of Burlington, Iowa, to own, maintain, and operate an existing interstate toll bridge, approaches thereto, and connecting highways extending across the Mississippi River from within said city. The bridge was constructed in 1917 under authority of an act approved December 17, 1915 (39 Stat. 1), which granted the consent of Congress to the Citizens' Bridge Co. and its successors and assigns to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Mississippi River at or near Burlington. In 1923 it was acquired and has since been owned, maintained, and operated as a toll bridge by the city of Burlington. The city now desires to repair and improve the structure, but it has received legal advice that it must obtain either from the State of Illinois or from Congress authority to own that portion of the bridge properties within the State of Illinois as a prerequisite to the sale of bonds to raise the necessary funds. The enactment of H. R. 4332 would remove the present obstacle to the sale of bonds.

The enactment of H. R. 4332 will not involve the expenditure of funds by this Department.

This report has been coordinated among the departments and boards in the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

Since the committee has requested that this report be expedited, it is submitted without a determination by the Bureau of the Budget as to whether it conforms to the program of the President. However, as soon as such advice is received it will be forwarded to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK PACE, Jr.,
Secretary of the Army.

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